

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF THE "CHRIST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH"
of Baltimore City, Maryland.

Originally drawn: February 1st., 1889

Amendments Approved March 28th. 1926

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That at a public meeting of the male members, above the age of twenty-one years, and residing in Baltimore City and being desirous of electing certain of their numbers to be constituted a body politic under and in pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at the January session, 1868, Chapter 471, and the sections contained and relating to Religious Corporations, which are incorporated in the Revised Code of the Public General Law of the State of Maryland, Article 40, Sections 157 to 169, inclusive, assembled together on the fifth day of February, in the year of our Lord 1888, in Triumph Hall on Light Street, near Ostend Street, in Baltimore City, agreeably to public notice given the preceeding Sabbath and with the Reverend Leander M. Zimmerman, Minister, they did elect according to law the following:

John M. Herrmann,

Adolphus H. Weaver,

Frederick Ritterhoff, and

G. W. Metcalf,..... Elders, and -

Isaac H. Robertson,

Louis Schaefer,

Thomas J. Griffin, and -

William F. Koethe,.....Deacons,

To the legal Church Council and Trustees of this Church.

The proposed act of incorporation and plan was then read and was unanimously adopted.

Under the date of the 28th of March, in the year of our Lord 1926, an Amended Constitution was unanimously adopted at a Congregational Meeting, to read as follows:

Article I.

The name of this Church and of the body politic shall be Christ English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Baltimore City, Maryland.

Article II.

This Church, in accordance with the doctrinal position of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States of America, and in the words thereof, receives and holds the Word of God, as contained in the Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as the only infallible rule of faith and practice, and the Augsburg Confession as the correct exhibition of the fundamental doctrines of the divine word; and it adopts for its government and discipline the 'Formula for the Government and Discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church', published by the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States; and it shall always be connected with a District Synod of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States.

Article III.

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. All persons shall be regarded as regular members of this Church who have been baptized in infancy, and after being duly instructed in the doctrines and duties of the Gospel, have been confirmed in the profession of their faith in Christ; also all persons who, not having been confirmed in infancy, have been similarly instructed and publically baptized upon profession of their faith in Christ. Members of other Lutheran Churches, of Evangelical denominations, may be received as members of this Church, upon the presentation of certificates of good standing in and dismission from the Churches with which they have been connected, or upon a renewed public profession of their christian faith.

DUTIES OF MEMBERS

SECTION 11. The principal duties of members are to lead an humble, holy and useful life; to attend diligently upon the preaching of the word; to maintain secret prayer and family worship; to partake of the Lord's Supper regularly and habitually whenever an opportunity is offered; to endeavor by persuasion and by the influence of a truly christian life, to lead the unconverted to Christ; to provide adequate religious instruction for the young of the Church; to contribute according to their ability for the maintenance of public worship, the support of the ministry, the relief of the poor of the Church, and the general religious and benevolent work of the Church. It is the duty of parents especially, to have their children baptized in infancy, to carefully instruct them in the doctrines of the Church, and to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, so that they may be early prepared for a public profession of faith in Christ.

And when the baptized children of the Church reach the years of understanding, and have attained the natural ability to partake of the Lord's Supper in manner commanded, it is their duty to become worthy communicants at the Lord's table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

SECTION 111. Every member is amenable to the Church Council and must appear before them when cited and submit to the discipline of the Church.

SECTION IV. Any member, being dissatisfied with the decision of the Church Council, relative to him or her, may appeal to the Synod with which the Church is, for the time being, connected, under the rules prescribed by the Formula for the Government and Discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chapter V, Section IV.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. The Pastor of the Church must be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, in connection with the General Synod, within whose bounds this Church is located and with which the Church itself is connected.

SECTION 11. The principal duties of the Pastor are those prescribed

a Chapter 11, Section 1, of the Formula of Government and Discipline referred to.

SECTION III. Should the Pastor at any time be guilty of teaching unscriptural doctrines or of indulging in immoral practices, (which may God in His mercy prevent), it shall be the duty of the Church Council to proceed against him as prescribed in Chapter 11, Section V, of the aforesaid 'Formula'.

SECTION IV. It shall be the Pastor's duty to keep a correct record of all of this ministerial acts, to wit: of all baptisms, infant and adult, admissions and dismissions by certificate, excommunication, and other forms of accession or loss of membership, communions, marriages, and deaths in a book provided for that purpose, which book is to be furnished by the Church, and is to remain the property of the Church and be open to inspection. During a pastoral vacancy, the book shall be kept by the Secretary of the Church Council, who shall keep the record in it until the vacancy be supplied.

ARTICLE V.

CHURCH OFFICERS

SECTION 1. These officers shall consist of a Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary, to be elected by the Congregation as permanent officers.

SECTION II. Thirty-two male members of the Congregation, duly qualified, shall be elected by the Congregation to act and serve with the officers mentioned in Section 1, and the Pastor and Pastor Emeritus, as a Church Council.

SECTION III. The thirty-two members of the first council shall be divided into groups of eight members each, whose term of office shall be for one, two, three, and four years respectively, thereby providing for the retirement and election of eight members annually. The members of each group to be selected by the Council in office March 1926.

SECTION IV. At each election there will be eight members of the Council elected for four years.

SECTION V. Members of the Council shall be installed according to the order of service for that purpose, as decided upon by the Pastor and Council, and in accordance with recommendations by the United Lutheran Church.



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ARTICLE VI.

DUTIES

SECTION I. The duties of the Church Council shall be those usually pertaining to this office, as set forth in Chapter III, Section VI, of the Formula for the Government and Discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

SECTION II. The Pastor shall be President of the Council and Congregation; in his absence, a President pro-tem shall be elected. When the Church is without a Pastor, the Council shall elect from their own number a President, ad interim, who shall also be President of the Congregation until a Pastor is elected.

SECTION III. The Treasurer shall keep a full and accurate account of all funds received and disbursements made, - all funds to be deposited in a bank approved by the Council. He shall submit to the Council an itemized report whenever requested to do so.

SECTION IV. The Recording Secretary shall keep an exact record of the proceedings of all meetings.

SECTION V. The Financial Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the weekly offerings and submit to the Council an itemized report when requested.

SECTION VI. The Pastor, with one half the members of the Council, and in the absence of the Pastor, twenty member of the Council, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but no business connected with the government and discipline of the Church shall be transacted without the presence of the Pastor, unless he be voluntarily or unavoidably absent, or the Church be without a Pastor.

SECTION VII. The Council shall select one of their number, or some other member of the Congregation who enjoys the confidence of the Congregation, to represent the Church in Synod and Conference meetings and his necessary expenses in the discharge of this duty and also those of the Pastor and Pastor Emeritus, in attending these meetings, shall be met out of the Treasury of the Church.

SECTION VIII. The Church Council as the Trustees of the Church shall have full possession and control of the property of the Church, to hold it for the use of the Congregation, but they shall not be permitted to purchase, sell, lease or mortgage, or otherwise dispose of or materially alter any real or leasehold property of the Church, nor encumber it with heavy debt, without the consent and approval of a majority of those voters of the Church who are present at a Congregational meeting, for which due notice has been given.

SECTION IX. The Council shall judge of the qualifications of applicants for Church membership, and administer the discipline of the Church on all members whose conduct is inconsistent with their Christian profession or who entertain fundamental errors. To this end, the Council shall have power to cite any of the Church members to appear before them, and to summon witnesses when the case requires it; and they shall further have the power after first admonishing any offending member from connection with the church, and shall restore to the privileges of the Church any expelled or suspended member who shall manifest sincere repentance.

SECTION X. The Church Council may call a meeting of the Congregation whenever they shall deem it necessary, and they shall do so when requested in writing by one-third of the voters of the Church.

SECTION XI. The Church Council shall hold regular meetings once a month. Special meetings may be called by the Pastor or President at any time and it shall be his duty to call them when requested to do so by eight members of the Council, or by one-third of the Congregation.

SECTION XII. An Annual Meeting of the Church Council shall be held within twenty days after the annual election for members of the same. At this meeting a full statement of all receipts and expenditures of the Church shall be laid before the Council by the Treasurer and audited by a committee appointed for that purpose, and all funds in the hands of the Treasurer shall be at all times subject to the order of the Church Council.

SECTION XIII; Should a vacancy occur among the members of the Council the remaining members of the Council shall have power to appoint some member of the Congregation to fill the unexpired term of member causing the vacancy.

SECTION XIV. Any member of the Council, who- through negligence or misconduct- proves himself unworthy of the office can be dismissed by the vote of three-fourths of the members of the Council.

ARTICLE VII.

ELECTIONS

SECTION I. All Congregational elections must be published by the Church Council to the Congregation at least ten days before the election. At the time appointed by the Church Council for an election, the assemblage shall be for the purpose of election only.

SECTION II. At these elections all confirmed, members, in good and regular standing, who have partaken of the Lord's Supper within the previous year and who contribute according to their ability to all necessary expenditures, shall be entitled to vote.

SECTION III. All elections for members of the Church Council must be held by ballot and a majority of the votes cast shall be sufficient for a choice.

SECTION IV. At an election for Pastor, the election shall be by ballot, and it shall be necessary that the candidate receive two-thirds of the votes of all the members qualified to vote, to constitute a choice. No voting by proxy or by power of attorney shall be permitted., but it is allowed that where a qualified voter is unable to be present at the election, such vote may send his or her ballot endorsed with his or her name in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Church Council and the ballot thus sent shall be counted.

SECTION V. The regular annual election for Church Council shall be held on the first Sunday in April, in each year, or within twenty days thereafter, and the existing officers shall continue in the discharge of their duties until their successors have been elected and duly installed.

SECTION VI. At a reasonable time before election, the Pastor or President shall appoint from among members of the Congregation, qualified to vote, five members, as Tellers of the Election.

ARTICLE VIII.

Amendments.

SECTION 1. No alterations or amendments shall be made of this Constitution unless recommended by a majority of the Church Council, or a majority vote of the votes of the Church, and then to be approved by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Church present at a meeting, lawfully called after at least ten days' notice of the amendment proposed.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed seals this day of
the Year of our Lord nineteen hundred and twenty-six.

W:

(Seal)
(Seal)

Edwin L. Boesche Secretary
Adolphus H. Weaver Treasurer

